

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6204

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4342

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, KU

SUBJ: PALESTINIANS DEFEND GOK AGAINST IRAQI PRESS

REF: KUWAIT 4246

1. KUWAIT PRESS (AL SIYASAH SEPT 11) CARRIED STATEMENT BY FATAH REP IN KUWAIT, SALIM ZANUN, WHICH CHARGED THAT "THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO UNDERMINE THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS" BETWEEN "PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE" AND THE GOK, AND EXPRESSED "ASTONISHMENT" AT CAMPAIGN OF RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT A NUMBER OF PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN DEPORTED FROM KUWAIT, SINCE GOK "DOES NOT DEPORT ANY PALESTINIANS FROM ITS TERRITORY." ZANUN'S STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGED KUWAITI "FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT" TO PALESTINIANS AND, ALLUDING SPECIFICALLY TO RECENT GOK GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP AND PRESS RESTRICTIONS, ASSERTED THAT "THESE MEASURES DO NOT TOUCH PALESTINIANS; THEY ARE PURELY KUWAITI MATTERS" WHICH DO NOT AFFECT PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES" IN THE FIELDS
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OF VOLUNTEERS . . . THE COLLECTION OF FUNDS, AND EXPRESSION

OF OPINION." SIMILAR STATEMENTS GIVEN TO PRESS BY
ALI YASSIN, PLO REP IN KUWAIT, AND KHALID AL HASSAN, MEMBER
OF PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

2. KUWAIT PRESS ALSO NOTED CONTINUED IRAQI PRESS ATTACKS
ON AMIRI DECREES ISSUED AUGUST 29, CHARGING THAT THEY ARE
BASED ON "FALSE INFORMATION" -- (AL SIYASAH SEPT 10)
AND THAT KUWAITI DEFMIN HAD DENIED THAT ANY KUWAITI
ARMY OFFICER HAD BEEN DISMISSED (AL RAI AL AM, SEPT 9).
KUWAIT PRESS ALSO NOTED WITH DISAPPROVAL THAT FOLLOWING
PERSONALITIES, IN LEBANON, HAVE CRITICIZED PUBLICLY GOK
STEPS AGAINST KUWAIT PRESS: IN'AM RA'D, LEADER OF LEBANESE
POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY; MAN NAMED KATIMI, OWNER OF
AL YOM NEWSPAPER IN BEIRUT; AND UNNAMED SECRETARY OF
LEBANESE JOURNALISTS UNION. LAST TWO NAMED REPORTEDLY CALLED
FOR "EMERGENCY MEETING" OF ARAB JOURNALISTS UNION TO
DISCUSS FREEDOM OF PRESS IN KUWAIT (AL RAI AL AM, SEPT 9).

3. COMMENT: FATAH AND PLO DEFENSE OF GOK COUCHED IN
TERMS WHICH INDICATE THAT PALESTINIAN SPOKESMEN WERE
DEFENDING GOK AGAINST EARLIER IRAQI PRESS ATTACKS. WE NOTE
THAT THESE PALESTINIAN STATEMENTS ARE THE FIRST PUBLIC
COMMENT ON GOK SHAKEUP BY PALESTINIANS RESIDENT IN KUWAIT.
STATEMENTS ALSO CONTRADICT WHAT SEEMS TO BE LEFTIST, ANTI-GOK
PROPAGANDA EFFORT UNDERWAY IN LEBANON, AS REPORTED REFTEL
AND NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE.
MAESTRONE

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